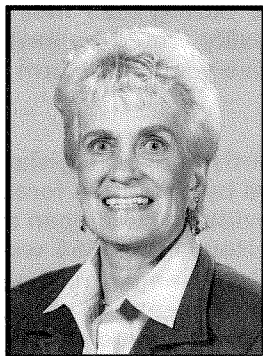


# Hammerstrom's

for the people  
in the 17th Senate District

# Hotline



State Senator  
**Bev Hammerstrom**  
State Capitol • Lansing, MI 48913  
1-888-477-8238  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom)

May 17, 2004



**MAY IS NATIONAL PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS MONTH** Since 1983, May has been proclaimed as National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. This is an excellent opportunity to emphasize the importance of physical activity and its correlation to a healthy and productive life. Studies conducted by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) indicate that diabetes affects more than 750,000 Michigan residents and costs the state approximately \$6 billion per year to treat. Physical activity can help prevent and lessen the severity of this and other diseases and, in turn, help reduce health care costs in this state. According to recommendations by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, adults should try to achieve at least 30 minutes of activity five days a week and children need at least 60 minutes of activity daily. For more information about Physical Fitness and Sports Month, please visit my website at [www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom).

**DID YOU KNOW?** Ten cents of every dollar spent on primary medical care in Michigan is due to physical inactivity, according to statistics from MDCH.

**MICHIGAN'S ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY** The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) recently celebrated the success of its Adopt-a-Highway project. From April 24 through May 2, more than 32,000 volunteers picked up litter from highway roadsides across the state. More than 570,000 volunteers have participated in cleanups since the program's inception in 1989. Two more cleanup days are scheduled this year, July 10-18 and September 11-19. For more information about the Adopt-a-Highway program, including how to participate, please visit [www.michigan.gov/adoptahighway](http://www.michigan.gov/adoptahighway), or call my office, toll-free, 1-888-477-8238.

**SENATE SENDS JOBS START-UP PACKAGE TO GOVERNOR** Bipartisan legislation designed to provide tax incentives for small start-up businesses was passed by the Senate last week. The package is part of an ongoing effort to revitalize Michigan's economy by creating and saving jobs and spurring business investment. The bills are designed to encourage the growth of small firms that have the highest potential of creating future jobs and economic growth for Michigan. They would exempt certain businesses from most taxes during their first five years of operation, traditionally the toughest years for new businesses. Ventures that qualify would be exempt from property taxes, as well as state and city income tax, and the Single Business Tax for five years if the firm has no net income. Qualified firms are still subject to sales and use taxes.

**SENATE PASSES FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PACKAGE** The Michigan Senate recently moved legislation aimed to protect the vitality of the state's forests for residents, tourists, and job providers by passing a forestry management package. The three-bill package was introduced in response to testimony provided by Michigan residents during Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism hearings held across the state last year. House Bill 5554 would provide important parameters to guide the future management of state forest lands by establishing a third-party certification. Senate Bill 1023 would establish four forest pilot areas to determine the most efficient and effective methods of harvesting timber while protecting wildlife habitats. SB 1024 would revise the Forest Finance Advisory Authority. The bill expands the authority from five to nine members and names the state treasurer as chairman. SB 1024 also allows the Forest Development Fund to be utilized for the acquisition and maintenance of the forest certification. The bills now await the Governor's signature.

---

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail,  
please contact me at [SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov)